

S.B. No. 839 An Act Concerning mergers and consolidations of various state agencies

Subject Matter- Government Reorganization

Hello, my name is Damary Quiros.....

I live in Farmington, Ct. and I am a Senior Home Visitor with the Nurturing Families Network Program. I am funded by the Childrens Trust Fund. I am based at VNA Healthcare on Woodland St. in Hartford.

I have worked with NFN for 13 years. I believe in this program for many reasons, but if I had to pick one it would have to be what's in our name "Nurturing". We can't give what we don't have. In order to thrive, learn, be healthy and succeed we need to be loved, feel safe, have our needs be met and most importantly be nurtured. How do we nurture if we never learned it? How do we stop cycles if there is no one there when things are actually going wrong? I was a teen mom myself and had to learn how to show affectionate, how to play with my children, how to set goals and how to achieve them. I can speak from the heart. There is no greater feeling then knowing that you can offer services to a parent who just brought a baby home that does not come with a set of instructions and to that baby who can not vocalize his/her needs. I am that child's voice.

I represent the children from birth to 5 years old that if not for this program will not be seen. Some are healthy and some have special needs. I am the eyes and ears of that child. I am often times the only advocate of that child. I stand here for that child because that child can not walk here, that child can not speak, nor can stand here and let his/her needs be known;

visit the homes once a week with the goal of helping parents to be the best parents that they can be. To insure, that child reaches its milestones, to relieve stressors in the home, and to make sure that the child's needs are being met. I primarily use the Parents as Teachers Curriculum to teach Child Growth Development

to the parents. We also have several other curriculums accessible to supplement or to tailor to the families depending on their needs. We use screening tools like the Ages & Stages to monitor child development and we are a research based program.

We collaborate with other agencies like Birth to Three, local Food Pantries, Community Health Centers, Daycares, hospitals, and others to provide the best service to the families. We also partner with VNA healthcare when Visiting nurses are needed to be involved with families, School Based Clinics(Hartford High), Local Mental Health Organizations(CRT Behavioral Health), GED(JobCorp), Urban League, Family Life ED.(Groups),etc. I am currently working with Connect-Ability as well. WE are collaborating to assist parents with disabilities join the workforce. We are supporting our families in achieving their goals.

Without your support these children would be left with no one to watch over them. They would be referred to as the invisible children once again. There is an ancient belief that says "Children should be seen and not heard" Without your support our children would not be heard or be seen again. We would only hear about them when tragedy hits and they come out on the newspaper and we hear about it in the news. Don't let this happen to the children of CT. Let us be known as "CT, the State that Cares About our Children", from the time they are born. CT; the state that provides infants, and babies with special needs; with a voice before they can speak.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Contact Info:

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